

A new species of spider of the genus *Cheiracanthium* Koch (Family Clubionidae) from India¹

B. K. TIKADER
(With four text-figures)

The Spiders of the family Clubionidae are little known in India, I have described previously (1962) a single species of this genus *Cheiracanthium* and subsequently Patel & Patel described a second species (1973). This is the third species to be described from India. While examining the spider collection received from Shri J. C. Daniel, Curator, Bombay Natural History Society, I came across a new species of spider, of the genus *Cheiracanthium*, which is described here.

***Cheiracanthium danieli* sp. nov.²**

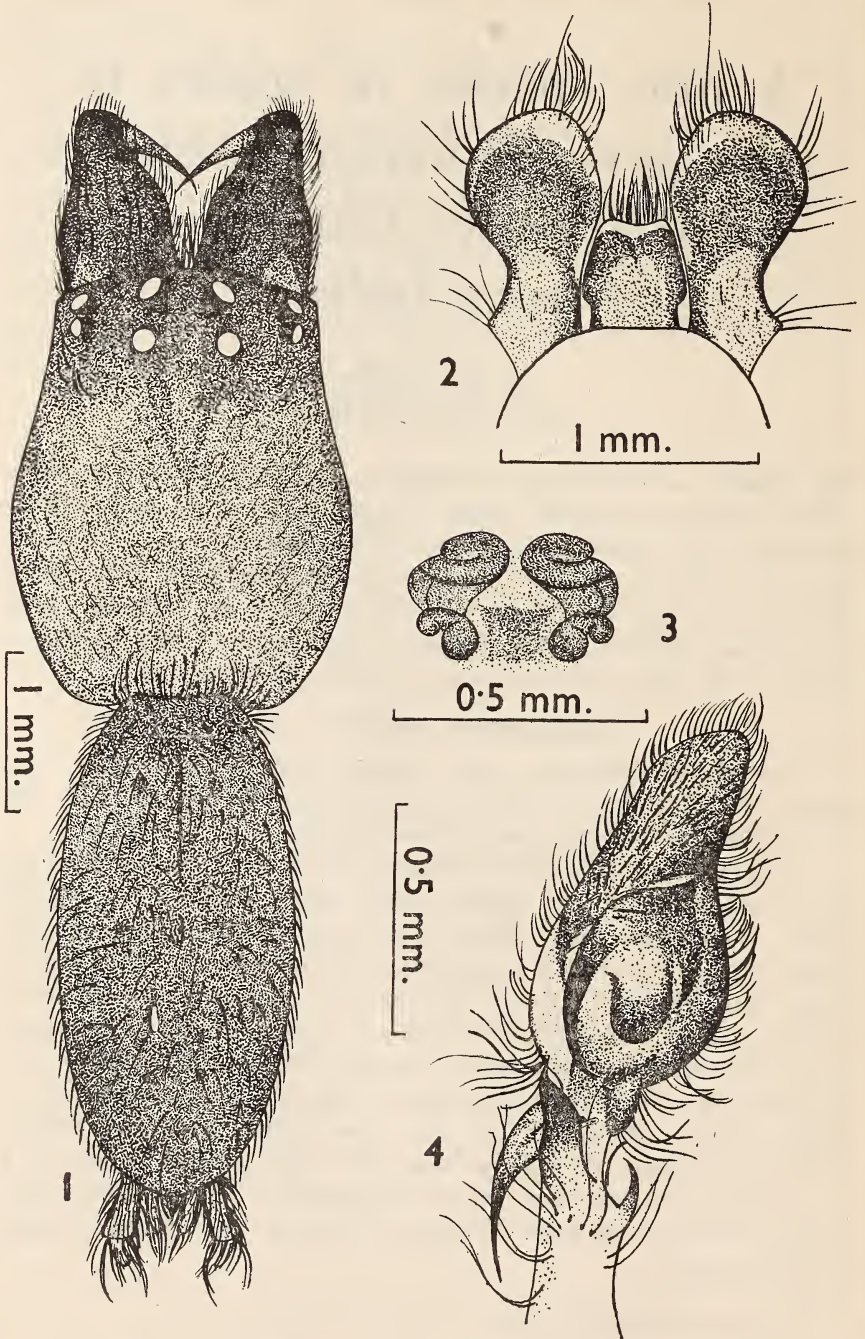
General: Cephalothorax and abdomen light brownish-green, legs pale-green. Total length 6.30 mm. Carapace 3.00 mm long, 2.20 mm wide; abdomen 3.40 mm long, 1.80 mm wide.

Cephalothorax: Longer than wide, wider in front, clothed with fine hairs, moderately convex, cephalic region slightly higher than posterior region. Eyes pearly white, anterior row straight and posterior row procurved; lateral eyes nearly contiguous; medians oval and white, slightly larger than laterals. Chelicerae strong, nearly vertical and dark brown in colour, inner margin provided with two equal teeth but other margin with one tooth large and another very small. Maxillae and labium (Fig. 2) provided with deep brown colour. Sternum heart-shaped pointed behind, clothed with hairs. Legs long, stout, clothed with hairs. Femora I and II provided with a dorsal long spine. Male palp as in text fig. 4.

Abdomen: Rather long, narrowed posteriorly, clothed with pubescence and some long hairs. Ventral side uniform pale colour. Epigyne as in text fig. 3.

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² It is with much pleasure that I have named this species after Shri J. C. Daniel, Curator, Bombay Natural History Society, who collected this specimen for my study.



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Fig. 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted. Fig. 2. Maxillae and labium. Fig. 3. Epigyne. Fig. 4. Male palp.

Holotype: One female, *allotype* one male in spirit.

Type locality: Borivli National Park, Bombay, India *Coll.* J. C. Daniel. 25.i.1974 and *allotype* from Western Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Shivajinagar, Poona - 5 *Coll.* B. K. Tikader, 31-i-1974.

This species resembles *Cheiracanthium saraswatii* Tikader, but it is separated as follows: (i) Chelicerae, maxillae and labium conspicuously dark brown in colour, but in *C. saraswatii* chelicerae, maxillae and labium not conspicuously dark brown colour. (ii) Epigyne and male palp structurally different.

REFERENCES

- PATEL, B. H. & PATEL, H. K. (1973): On some new species of spiders of family Clubionidae (Araneae: Arachnida) with record of genus *Castineira* Keyserling from Gujarat, India: *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.* 78(1):1-9.
- TIKADER, B. K. (1972): Studies on some Indian Spiders (Araneae: Arachnida): *J. Linn. Soc. London Zool.* 44:568.